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From: "Allen, Kara" <Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov>

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Subject: SEEC Daily Clips 9.27.12

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Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition

September 27, 2012

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Top news stories:

Dems push DOE for environmental analysis of natural gas exports (The Hill)

Led by SEEC Members Reps. Jared Polis (Colo.) and Maurice Hinchey (N.Y.), the lawmakers called on DOE to conduct an environmental impact statement, as outlined under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), before approving more export deals or LNG terminal permits.

100 Million to Die by 2030 If World Fails to Act on Climate (Reuters)

More than 100 million people will die and global economic growth will be cut by 3.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 if the world fails to tackle climate change, a report commissioned by 20 governments said on Wednesday.

Diesel in Water Near Fracking Confirm EPA Tests Wyoming Disputes (Bloomberg)

A retest of water in Pavillion, Wyoming, found evidence of many of the same gases and compounds the Environmental Protection Agency used to link contamination there to hydraulic fracturing, the first finding of that kind.

Nine Out of 10 Americans Believe Solar Has an Increased Role To Play In US Energy (Clean Technica)

A new poll suggests nearly 9 out of 10 American adults think solar energy should play a bigger role in the energy supply mix. The Ipsos-Reid Poll done for Sungevity recognized 89% of respondents favor more solar power in the US energy supply.

Energy news:

Power, gas groups press for Dodd-Frank delay (The Hill)

Trade groups for power companies and natural-gas suppliers are pressing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to delay their industries' compliance with reforms required under the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, warning that higher energy costs could result unless the leeway is provided.

Nuclear energy capacity growth slowing after Fukushima: IAEA (Reuters)

The U.N. atomic agency cut its forecast for nuclear energy growth for a second year as the industry continued to feel the effect of the Fukushima disaster in Japan and said most of the expansion would be in Asia.

Fisker Automotive Raises Another \$100 Million for New Sedan, International Push (Sustainable Business)

Amid recalls of its luxury Karma plug-in hybrid vehicles and production delays for its follow-up sedan, Fisker Automotive has raised another \$100 million in private equity -- bringing its total so far to nearly \$1.2 billion.

Adapting Gas-Fired Power to a Greener Grid (New York Times)

Making electricity from natural gas is cleaner than making it from coal or oil, but as gas gains a bigger market share in the business in the United States and elsewhere, the idea of what constitutes a good generator is shifting. General Electric announced a line of new models on Wednesday, with two interesting environmental twists.

NIMBY to the max: Building helipads to stop wind turbines (Grist)

A few locals in the area are uninterested in having wind turbines around. So they are fighting back. In a weird way. Some Benzie County residents launched a new weapon in their efforts to block rural wind turbine development: helicopters.

Green Building Benefits 'Need Better Documentation' (Environmental Leader)

Wider financial, environmental and social benefits need to be documented for green building if it is to maintain the growth seen in the past decade, according to research by McGraw-Hill Construction.

Campaign Advisers Trade Barbs Over Romney Plan to Shift Energy Development to States (National Journal)

Campaign surrogates for President Obama and Mitt Romney clashed at a debate on Monday over the Republican nominee's proposal to give states control of energy production on federal lands.

Oregon's Biggest Wind Farm Comes Online, Shepherd's Flat (Sustainable Business)

A huge new wind farm has come online in Oregon, one of the biggest in the world and the largest in that state. At 845 megawatts

(MW), Shepherd's Flat traverses 30 acres along the Eastern Columbia Gorge in the northeast part of Oregon.

Poll: Obama widens lead over Romney in Iowa (The Hill)

A new poll shows President Obama expanding his lead over Republican Mitt Romney in Iowa, a continuation of a trend seen in a number of recent polls that seems to indicate he's pulling ahead in a state where energy issues have played a prominent role in both campaigns.

Why Canada's oil sands are so highly coveted (Globe and Mail)

Here's a figure to keep in mind when discussing the latest billion-dollar bid for an oil sands developer: 84 per cent of the world's remaining oil reserves are either state-owned or controlled. Of the freely accessible leftovers, 62 per cent reside in Canada's oil sands.

World wind power leader EU passes 100GW (Financial Times)

The EU has cemented its title as the world champion of wind power by passing the milestone of 100 gigawatts of generating capacity installed. The turbines bestriding the continent's plains and seas can now pump out as much electricity as 39 nuclear power plants – or enough for 57m households.

Japan to ease the way for more coal fired power (Power Engineering International)

The Japanese government is seeking to relax procedures on environmental impact in order to make it easier to build more coal fired power plants.

Climate news:

Barring Unusual Cold, 2012 Will Be Hottest Year on Record (Climate Central)

The U.S. has experienced its warmest year-to-date (January-August) on record, and unless the next four months are about as cold as the first eight months were hot, 2012 will go down as the hottest year on record.

Farmers' Almanacs predict cold winter for East, warm weather in the West (Washington Post)

Both the Farmers' Almanac (FA) and Old Farmer's Almanac (OFA) have released their winter outlooks. The common theme: cold east of the Rockies and warm in the West.

Report: Carbon tax could halve deficit (The Hill)

Taxing carbon emissions could raise enough money to eventually cut the deficit in half, but policymakers would face tough questions about whether to use the cash to brighten the fiscal outlook or tackle other needs, a report finds.

Poll: 69 Percent Of Hunters And Anglers Say We Should Reduce Carbon Emissions (ThinkProgress)

The National Wildlife Federation has issued a new poll outlining the priorities and opinions of America's sportsmen (and women). Conducted by a Republican polling firm, the poll asked hunters and anglers who vote questions about conservation, public lands, energy, and climate change.

Weather helping U.S. wildfires stay alive (United Press International)

Some 35 large wildfires blistered parts of the Western United States Wednesday, weather forecasters said, away from the thunderstorms soaking parts of the East.

Salt Marshes To Absorb Carbon To 2050, But May Emit It Later (Reuters)

Salt marshes around the world's coasts will help slow climate change until about 2050 by soaking up greenhouse gases but then risk making the problem even worse as sea levels rise, a study showed on Wednesday.

This is Why Congress is Incapable of Passing Any Climate-Friendly Policies (Tree Hugger)

Faced with its first major opportunity to participate in an already-functioning, international CO2-reduction scheme, the U.S. Senate — as well as the House — threw a fit.

Great Barrier Reef Threatened By Warming Waters, Study Shows (Huffington Post)

The waters of Australia's Great Barrier Reef are getting warmer, satellite measurements show, which spells bad news for the myriad creatures that dwell in this rain forest of the ocean.

Australia, moving ahead with cap and trade, talks to Calif. about linkage (E&E*)

Australia is "keen" to link its new emissions trading system to California's, a top Australian climate official said yesterday. Mark

Dreyfus, Australia's parliamentary secretary for climate change and energy efficiency, said that he met earlier this week with California officials and that the government is eager for more conversations.

An Alaskan Town Threatened By Climate Change Loses In Court (Forbes)

In the wake of the Supreme Court's seminal opinion on climate change last year, a federal appellate court in California has rejected a case against Exxon Mobil, Chevron, and a handful of other energy companies accused of emitting greenhouse gases that endanger the remote Alaskan village of Kivalina.

Greenpeace targets forest carbon offsets in California's cap-and-trade (Mongabay)

California's forest conservation-based carbon offsets in its climate change legislation may not lead to net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and could exacerbate social conflict in places like southern Mexico, argues a report released Monday by Greenpeace. But the activist group faced sharp criticism from backers of California's initiative.

Poll deals climate change blow for Mitt Romney (New Scientist)

More bad news for Mitt Romney: the Republican party's scepticism about climate change seems likely to play badly with voters who haven't yet decided who to back in November's US presidential election.

Super typhoon Jelawat to threaten Okinawa then Japan (Washington Post)

Another monster typhoon has spun up in the western Pacific. Following super typhoon Sanba that ripped across Okinawa and then into South Korea, super typhoon Jelawat is also eyeing Okinawa before a possible encounter with Japan.

Environment & Health news:

Even as the ice melts, drilling in the Arctic gets tougher (Washington Post)

Shell's stumbles this summer have made other companies leery. Norway's Statoil is holding off on drilling off Alaska's coasts until Shell proves that it can be done. And, on Tuesday, the CEO of French energy company Total, Christophe de Margerie, told the Financial Times that energy companies should just avoid drilling for crude in the Arctic altogether, at least for now.

Top Senate Dem presses Interior to scrap Arctic oil lease sales (The Hill)

The Senate's No. 2 Democrat and five colleagues are urging the Obama administration to cancel planned oil-and-gas lease sales off Alaska's Arctic shores in coming years.

Why Midwest drought could have been much worse for some corn farmers (Christian Science Monitor)

Across the Corn Belt, farmers have expressed surprise that their corn endured drought as well as it did – much better, they say, than the varieties they planted just a decade or two ago. In Illinois, for example, one estimate suggests that corn farmers will lose one-quarter less of their crop than they did during the 1988 drought – in large part because of the seeds they planted.

Tar Sands Blockaders Arrested, Police Accused of 'Torture' (Environment News Service)

Two anti-tar sands pipeline activists were arrested in east Texas on Tuesday as demonstrators continue a three-day-old tree-sit to block TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

Decision on Eastern Utah's tar sands mine expected next month (Salt Lake Tribune)

Plans for a Book Cliffs tar sands mine — the nation's first fuel-producing one — will be up for final approval next month before the state Water Quality Board.

Whitman: Anti-EPA message scares off independents (POLITICO)

Former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman hopes to see a bit more of Gov. Mitt Romney rather than presidential nominee Mitt Romney in the coming weeks — at least on environmental issues.

Northern pipeline could jeopardize ancient, endangered sturgeon (Toronto Star)

One of the most powerful foes of the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline through northern British Columbia is not a lawyer or a conservation group or any of the many First Nations who have lined up against the project. It's a very large, very, very old fish.

Farm Bill Impasse Won't Hurt Cotton Agreement with Brazil, Official Says (CQ*)

U.S. officials say stalled congressional action on a new farm bill should not unravel an agreement with Brazil that has kept the country from levying nearly \$1 billion in retaliatory tariffs on American goods because of subsidies in the cotton program.

* indicates subscription required

These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of fifty-two Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing "policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing, develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply-chain, and policies to help arrest global warming and protect our nation's clean air, water and natural environment." SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)

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